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Support with Amendments
HB 450
House Government and Operations Committee
February 17, 2011

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports HB 450 –*Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Health Care Reform Safety Net Providers*. MASBHC is an association of school-based health centers across the state. We have been appreciative of the Community Health Resource Commission's efforts to support expanding capacity at our centers. We support HB 450 because many school-based health centers will be seeking grant support to implement adequate billing systems and expand clinical capacity to meet the demands for services. School-based health centers can help expand the reach of the primary care providers in their communities.

We are seeking some minor amendments to the legislation:

Amendment 1

On page 2, line 1, after before "PROVIDER" insert "COMMUNITY-BASED".

Explanation: This clarifies that safety-net means community providers .

Amendment 2

On page 3, strike lines 6 and 7 in their entirety and substitute "barriers to safety net providers contracting with and billing third-party payers;"

Explanation: This makes it clear that the study is to first identify barriers to third-party billing, which could include the lack of a billing system. School-based health centers are very interested in seeking grant support to install billing systems, much as the federally-qualified health center community has done.

Amendment 3:

On page 3, beginning in line 13, strike ":" through "(ii)" in line 15; and after "sustaining" in line 15 insert "and enhancing".

Explanation: This makes the plan broader.